01018

1972/09/30

Reproduced at the National Archives

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By NARA Date 09/13/02

EXCLUSIVE

EYES ONLY

EFA007
00 86972
DE WTE 3712 2741644

0 301640Z SEP 72
FM SITUATION ROOM
TO COL BROWN FOR GEN HAIG
ZEM
T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY WH29537

1972 SEP 30 PM 1 13

TOHAIG 08

SEPTEMBER 30, 1972

TO: AL HAIG
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

THE MESSAGE FROM THE OTHER SIDE WHICH YOU ALREADY RECEIVED UNDERSCORES MY VIEW THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING THE WAR, TIME IS RUNNING FOR US. THUS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET MAXIMUM SECURITY CONCESSIONS FROM THE OTHER SIDE. USING THE UNANIMITY PRINCIPLE WHICH THEY HAVE STATED, WE NEED TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN MAKE SOME COSMETIC POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO THAT END. I WOULD NOT EXCLUDE GOING BACK TO OUR ORIGINAL PROPOSALS OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WITH AN EXPANDED NATIONAL RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE OUR NEW PROPOSAL WITH THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND NO FORMAL THIEU RESIGNATION OFFERS THE BETTER POSSIBILITY. IN PRINCIPLE, WE COULD GO EITHER WAY BUT WE WILL BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE JUDGMENT OF YOUR HOST. YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH THIEU AND GET HIS FRANK OPINION.

YOU SHOULD ALSO WORK WITH THE MILITARY TO BE SURE THAT A CONCRETE PLAN IS PREPARED AND READY TO GO TO DELIVER A MAXIMUM EFFORT DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN THE EVENT THE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL. YOU SHOULD LEAVE NO DOUBT OF THE DISSATISFACTION HERE WITH THE PRESENT EFFORT AND MAKE CLEAR THAT NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE.

YOU SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS WITH THIEU OUR CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR NOVEMBER IF THE TALKS SHOULD FAIL.

ABOVE ALL HE MUST SEE THAT WE HAVE A COMMON CHALLENGE AND A COMMON OPPORTUNITY. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT A SETTLEMENT ON THE TERMS OF EITHER PLAN WILL BE SEEN AS A CLEAR-CUT VICTORY FOR ONE SIDE.

WARM REGARDS.
400

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVE

NNNN